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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUPLE PLEAD GUILTY TO MANUFACTURING  
CREDIT CARDS**

BALTIMORE, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that Francis E. Fletcher, age 36, and Michele Anne Fletcher, age 31, of Glenn Dale, Maryland pled guilty today before U.S. District Court Judge Richard D. Bennett to 3 counts of bank fraud and credit card fraud.

According to the statement of facts agreed to by the parties, for nearly two years until their arrest in early 2003, the Fletchers used social security numbers of other persons to make counterfeit driver's licenses, substituting their own photographs. The arrest was the result of a criminal investigation which began after the Fletchers were videotaped in a Germantown store purchasing three Audiovox DVD players using a counterfeit VISA card in April of this year. During a search conducted on April 21, 2003 at the Fletchers' residence, members of a joint task force consisting of Montgomery and Prince George's County detectives and agents from the U.S. Secret Service

discovered a virtual factory for making credit cards, including over a thousand blank plastic cards, embossing machines, computer equipment and over a hundred completed counterfeit cards. Law enforcement officers seized expensive merchandise obtained through the use of counterfeit credit cards from area stores including flat screen televisions, digital cameras, computers and gift certificates in denominations of \$1,000 to \$3,000.

As part of the plea agreement, the Fletchers agreed to forfeit the seized property including their residence in Glenn Dale, two Mercedes Benz automobiles, a Lexus automobile, a Kawasaki Ninja motorcycle, several computers, flat-screen televisions and other electronic items, power tools and jewelry recovered during the search of the Fletchers' home.

Each defendant faces sentences of up to 30 years imprisonment and a \$1,000,000 fine. Judge Bennett scheduled sentencing for September 14, 2004.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Donna C. Sanger and Bryan E. Foreman.